



# Geospatial Data Act Overview

NSRS Modernization Update and Federal Coordination Planning  
January 10, 2019

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# Objectives for today

- Build awareness on the Geospatial Data Act (GDA)
- Provide insights on the GDA implementation approach and next steps
- Identify impacts and opportunities for the geodetic control community

# Geospatial coordination before the GDA



## - Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

- *Promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis.*

## - National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

- *The technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data.*

## - National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA)

- *A geospatial dataset that meets at least one of the following criteria: supports mission goals of multiple federal agencies, statutorily mandated, supports Presidential priorities.*

## - NGDA Themes

- *Groupings of NGDA datasets, with coordinated management led by one or more Federal agencies; mandated under OMB Circular A-16*

## - National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)

- *Dept. of Interior FACA to “provide advice and recommendations related to management of Federal and national geospatial programs.”*





# Selected GDA Drivers

- Building the NSDI is not a Federal-only activity
  - Revisit the 2005-6 Future Directions outcomes, specifically related to a more collaborative governance structure
  - More reflective of the geospatial marketplace; U.S. gov't is not the major funder as it was three decades ago
- Increase cost accountability and performance management for Federal agencies
  - Builds on GAO 2013 study on "*GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION: OMB and Agencies Can Reduce Duplication by Making Coordination a Priority*"
- Fresh start – learn from past 3 decades
- Desire for Congressional involvement in the NSDI
- Signed into law on October 5, 2018



# GDA Core Objectives

The GDA reflects growing recognition of the essential role of geospatial data and technology and highlights the need to support their continuing development as critical infrastructure for the Nation.



The GDA formalizes Federal government structures related to geospatial data



The GDA provides policy and guidance to empower the use of geospatial data and technology



Facilitates broad cooperation between the public and private sector



# GDA Sections

- Section 751. Short Title; Findings
- Section 752. Definitions
- Section 753. Federal Geographic Data Committee
- Section 754. National Geospatial Advisory Committee
- Section 755. National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- **Section 756. NGDA Data Themes**
- **Section 757. Geospatial Data Standards**
- Section 758. GeoPlatform
- Section 759. Covered Agency Responsibilities
- Section 759A. Limitation on Use of Federal Funds
- Section 759B. Savings provision
- Section 759C. Private sector



# GDA Tiger Teams

**Analysis of the GDA**—identify impacts, requirements and recommendations that will result in the development of an implementation strategy.



**Governance & Organization**



**Data, Standards and Delivery**



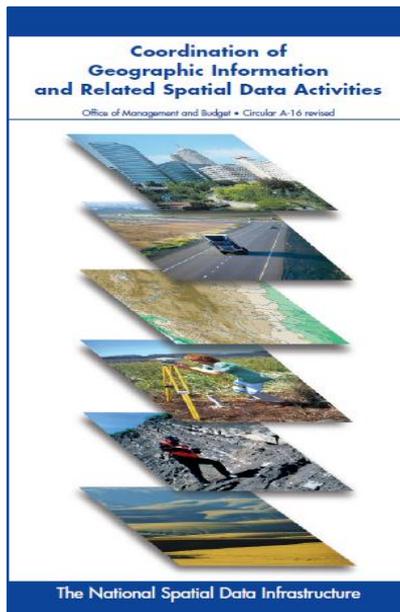
**Covered Agencies & Reporting**



**Communications & Outreach**

# OMB Implementation Guidance

- GDA requires OMB to issue implementation guidance to agencies one year after signing the GDA into law (October 2019 – past due)
- Small team of FGDC Secretariat and member agency staff took results for GDA Tiger Team work, and based on direction from OMB, completely revised OMB Circular A-16

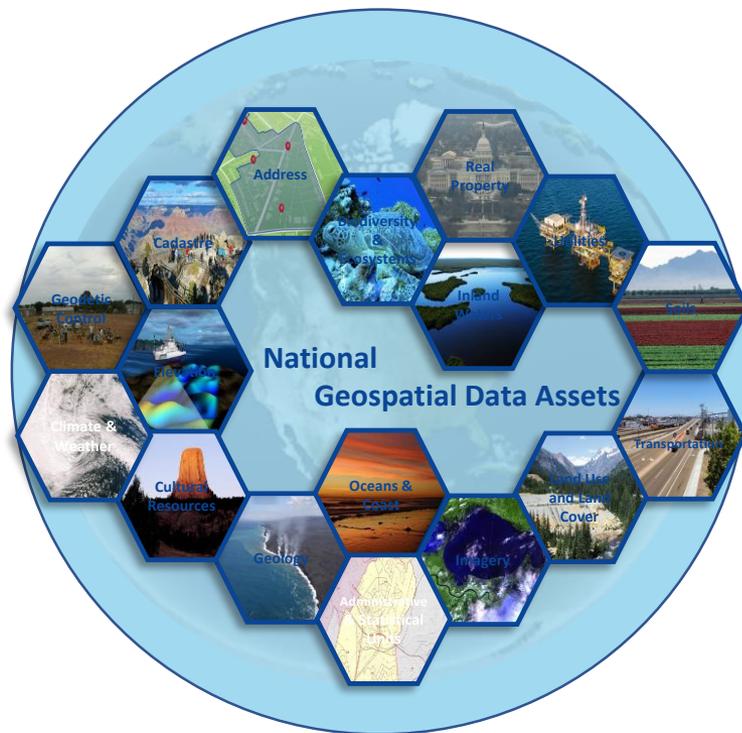


OMB Circular A-16

- A-16 Revised mirrors the GDA organizational structure for ease of use
- FGDC website and/or GeoPlatform will be used as a repository for additional GDA implementation resources
- Expect release of A-16 Revised from OMB in the near future

# Stewardship of Data

Requires the FGDC to designate for management by Federal agencies NGDA data themes, for which the coordinated development, maintenance, and dissemination of geospatial data would benefit the Federal government and people of the United States.



 **Section 756. NGDA Data Themes**



# Current Approach vs GDA

- **Consistent with Current Practices**

- Development, maintenance, and dissemination of geospatial data are coordinated within Themes

- **GDA Changes**

- FGDC Lead Agencies will build a stronger alignment of Themes and development of standards
- New reporting requirements (as part of administering the NGDA data themes) include:
  - Submit an annual Theme Implementation Performance Report
  - Comment on FGDC summaries of the Annual Reports
  - Contribute to the biennial Congressional report
  - Publish maps and graphics showing extent and status of NGDA themes
- Identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the lead covered agency





# Theme Reports / Plans / Audits

**APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF PLANS, REPORTS AND AUDITS REQUIRED BY THE GDA**  
 The following table and figures summarize the requirements in the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) regarding planning, reporting, audits, and related activities, including new and ongoing requirements for agencies. This table will be updated and maintained on the FGDC website. FGDC Technical Guidance will cover elements included in this table.

**Table 1. Summary of Requirements for Plans, Reports, Audits, and Related Activities**

Responsible Party	GDA Reference	Requirement for FGDC or Agencies	Timing/Frequency
<b>Performance Reports</b>			
Lead Covered Agencies	§756(b)(3)(E)(i)(I)	Annual performance report to FGDC on the NGDA data theme.	Annual
Federal Geographic Data Committee	§753(c)(10)(A), (B)	Online publication on the status of each NGDA data theme and a summary and evaluation of the achievements of each covered agency.	Annual
National Geospatial Advisory Committee	§753(c)(11) §754(f)(2)(B)	Provide comments on FGDC summaries and evaluations of NGDA data themes. Include in comments a discussion of any failure by a covered agency to furnish information in response to an NGAC request under subparagraph 754(f)(2)(A).	Annual
Lead Covered Agencies	§756(b)(3)(E)(i)(II)	Provide comments to FGDC on FGDC's summary and evaluation of the performance report.	Annual
Covered Agencies	§753(c)(12)(A)	Provide comments to FGDC on FGDC's summary and evaluation of each covered agency.	Annual
Federal Geographic Data Committee	§753(c)(11)(C) §753(c)(12)(B)	Submit to Congress a report on the status of each NGDA data theme and a summary and evaluation of the achievements of each covered agency, including comments of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, the comments of the covered agencies, and the responses of the FGDC to the comments.	Not less than once every 2 years
<b>Budget Justifications</b>			
Covered Agencies	§759(b)(2)(A)	Each agency shall include geospatial data in preparing the budget submission to the President.	Annual
Office of Management and Budget	§759(b)(4)	In its annual evaluation of each covered agency, the Office of Management and Budget will take into consideration the FGDC's summary and evaluation of each covered agency, NGAC's and the Lead Cover Agencies' comments to FGDC's summary and evaluation, and FGDC's responses to those comments, which are required under subparagraphs 753(c)(10)(A) and (B) and paragraphs 753(c)(11) and (12).	Annual

Requirement for FGDC or Agencies	Timing/Frequency
The Inspector General of each agency shall submit to Congress an audit of the collection, production, acquisition, maintenance, distribution, use, and preservation of geospatial data.	Not less than every 2 years
<b>Planning</b>	
The FGDC shall prepare and maintain a strategic plan for the development and implementation of the NSDI in a manner consistent with national security, national defense, and emergency preparedness program policies regarding data accessibility. FGDC shall advise Federal and non-Federal users of geospatial data on their responsibilities relating to implementation of the NSDI.	Not defined
Publish online a collection of periodic technical publications, management articles, and reports related to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.	Annual
Provide strategic planning support to FGDC. Establish goals that support the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 755(c).	Ongoing
Each covered agency shall prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 755(c).	Not defined
Covered agencies shall submit to the Committee an annual report regarding the achievements in preparing and implementing the strategy and all other requirements of §759(a).	Annual
Include a discussion of the summaries and evaluation of the progress in establishing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in each E-Government status report submitted under section 3806 of title 44, United States Code, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives.	Annual (no later than March 1, per Title 44)
<b>Themes and Geospatial Data Standards Planning</b>	Ongoing
Establish standards for each NGDA data theme, including for geospatial data and metadata for geospatial data.	Ongoing

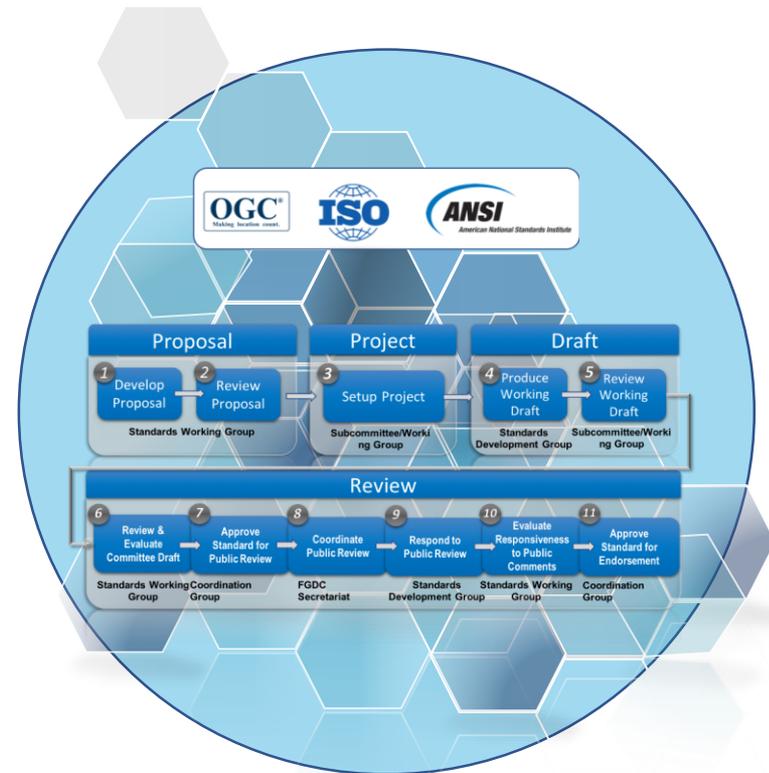
Requirement for FGDC or Agencies	Timing/Frequency
For each NGDA data theme, the lead covered agency shall provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme.	Not defined
For each NGDA data theme, the lead covered agency shall develop a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices.	Not defined
Publish maps or comparable graphics online showing the extent and status of the NGDA data themes for which the covered agency is a lead covered agency.	Ongoing
Identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the lead covered agency.	Ongoing
Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the NGDA data themes used by the covered agency.	Ongoing
Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeospatialForm.	Within 5 years after the NGDA data theme standards are established
Implement NGDA data theme standards within 5 years after the standards are approved or funding restrictions and potential waivers apply. See Section 7.	Starting 5 years after the NGDA data theme standards are established
Determine if each covered agency is utilizing applicable NGDA data theme standards established by FGDC. The FGDC Chairperson may grant a covered agency a waiver of the limitation on Federal funds under certain conditions.	Starting 5 years after the NGDA data theme standards are established
<b>Publication</b>	Annual
Publish FGDC membership directory online, including identifying members of any subcommittee or working group of the FGDC.	Annual
Upon request of the NGAC Chairperson, the head of the covered agency provides information considered by the NGAC as necessary to carry out its duties.	Upon request of the NGAC and with concurrence of FGDC Chairperson
Agencies shall ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency NARA approved records schedules.	Ongoing

Requirement for FGDC or Agencies	Timing/Frequency
Maintain an inventory of all geospatial data assets.	Ongoing
Prepare an annual report to Congress identifying Federal-wide geospatial data assets.	Annual
Each agency shall disclose each contract, cooperative agreement, grant, or other transaction that deals with geospatial data, which may include posting information related to the transaction on USAspending.gov and Idashboard.gov, or any successors thereto.	Ongoing



# Standards to promote interoperability and innovation

Requires the FGDC use national and international standards adopted by voluntary consensus bodies to the maximum extent possible; establish and promulgate new standards if they do not already exist and consult with a broad range of users and providers.



## Section 757. Geospatial Data Standards



# Current Approach vs GDA

- **Consistent with Current Practices**
  - Federal agencies are required to use FGDC-endorsed standards per OMB Circular A-16
  - OMB Circular A-119 directs Federal agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical
  - Public Law 104-113, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, codified policies in OMB Circular A-119
- **GDA Changes / Issues to Resolve**
  - Standards must be consistent with international standards and protocols
  - Standards must be “periodically” reviewed and updated; need to define “periodically”
  - Repercussions for agencies whose data does not comply with applicable standards (See Section 759A Limitation on Use of Federal Funds)





# Implementation Status and Timeline

- Waiting on OMB to issue Circular A-16 Revised
  - OMB is expecting agencies to begin complying in FY20
- Interagency Working Group meeting weekly – two priorities
  - GDA FY20-21 Roadmap
  - Phased Agency Implementation Guidance
- National Geospatial Advisory Committee coordination
- Overlaps with Federal Data Strategy and Evidence Act

FY20-21 GDA ROADMAP TASKS
<b>GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>
1. Develop FY2020/2021 GDA Roadmap
2. Implement OMB Circular A-16 Revised
3. Revise FGDC Governance Structure
4. Establish GDA Council
5. Define NGAC Role and Processes
6. Develop GDA Implementation Budget Recommendation
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>
7. Develop Revised NSDI Strategic Plan
8. Develop Agency Geospatial Strategies
9. Implement FDS Action Plan FY19-20 FGDC Actions
<b>REPORTING AND AUDITS</b>
10. Develop GDA Report to Congress
11. Execute Agency Annual Reporting Process
12. Complete GeoPlatform Planning and Reporting
13. Support Covered Agency IG Audits
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT</b>
14. Develop and Execute GDA Communications Strategy
15. Develop and Execute GDA External Engagement Events
16. Advance GDA High-Value Federal Investments and Incentives Activities

# Geospatial Data Act requirements overlap with Federal Data Strategy & Evidence Act

Federal  
Data  
Strategy

Evidence  
Act

		Federal Data Strategy	Evidence Act
1	Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission		
2	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that resulting data, information, or products can be shared		
3	Promote geospatial data integration		
4	Ensure that geospatial information is included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration.		
5	Allocate resources to fulfill geospatial data responsibilities		
6	Use geospatial data standards		
7	Coordinate with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector		
8	Make federal geospatial information more useful to the public, enhance operations, support decision making, and enhance reporting to the public and to Congress		
9	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal policy and law.		
10	Participate in determining whether declassified data can become part of the NSDI		
11	Search all sources to determine if existing data meet the needs of the covered agency before expending funds to acquire geospatial data		
12	Ensure that those receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provide high-quality data		
13	Appoint a contact to coordinate with other lead covered agencies		



# Geodetic Community Impacts and Opportunities

- New FGDC governance structure might impact current Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee structure
- Potential ramping up of requirements for planning and reporting
- Leadership and best practice opportunities
  - Expectation of broad engagement across the all sectors – already happening with GC community
  - Standards guidance – many themes are going to be looking for best practices and approaches to follow
  - Potentially more opportunities to communicate NSRS plans and changes



# Links for More Information

- **Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)**
  - <https://www.fgdc.gov/>
  - About the Geospatial Data Act, with full text: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda>
  - OMB Circular A-16: <https://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/index.html>
  - Executive Order 12906: [https://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/executive\\_order](https://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/executive_order)
- **Federal Data Strategy:** <https://strategy.data.gov/>
- **Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act:**  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174>
- **2019 Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence:**  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-maintaining-american-leadership-artificial-intelligence/>





# Contact Information

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